

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A signal representative of a key is generated in response to key production information. Encryption-resultant contents information is decrypted in response to the generated signal  
5 representative of the key. Key-related information is received which has been generated by an external in response to an authentication value and at least a portion of the key production information according to a predetermined function. Issue ID information is received which has been generated in response to  
10 the authentication value and decryption-side ID information peculiar to a decryption side. The authentication value is reproduced from the decryption-side ID information and the received issue ID information. At least a portion of the key production information is  
15 received key-related information according to a function inverse with respect to the predetermined function.